

Argos System Use Administration Executive Summary

Argos SUA administration at NOAA processed 194 System Use Agreements (SUA) with 27 SUAs held pending for questions over the course of May 2004- May 2005. NOAA uses an internal metrics of 14 days to process completed SUAs. For 2004-2005 the SUAs processing time averaged 8.8 days up from 5.4 days in 2003-2004, with a decrease in the number of pending SUAs received for processing (14% from 16%). As of June 16th 2005 there were 3 Pending SUAs, two of which, Brazil and Peru, are Fishing Vessel monitoring applications. The third SUA is an Iranian Government environmental oceanographic application.

The decline in SUA administration performance was the result of the change in staffing in OSDPD and the implementation of the electronic SUA system that was not 100% operational. The electronic processing system is covered more completely in section G-4 SUA Implementation. The impact of the personnel change and the new system resulted in a ~3 day longer review for SUAs in the system. There were some other minor incidences where SUAs were lost in the fax process. Another consequence of the changes was the discontinuation of the monthly pending lists. It became too much of a burden to maintain the ad hoc lists. Status information for applications in the system can now be obtained from the electronic SUA system web home page.

Service Argos Inc. provided an alternative plan of action at the March 2005 Intercessional meeting for using User letters and Data denial policy. SAI proposed to reduce the user letter process from three letters to one and eliminate the data denial options altogether. SAI feels the renewal process is much improved and the numbers of applications that fail to renew in the timely manner are minimal. OPSCOM Co-chairs agreed to amend the O/C 38 accepted plan based on SAI/CLS's request with one requirement. SAI/CLS will need to report at the OPSCOM the numbers of unresolved renewals. The OPSCOM will use this information to ensure there is a minimal amount of active programs with expired SUAs.